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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 15

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Ms. Daes: draft resolution

Permanent forum in the United Nations for indigenous people

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the recommendation contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights that the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system should be considered,

Recalling the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to involve indigenous people and their communities in the United Nations programmes of environment and development as stated in article 22 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and in chapter 26 of the Agenda 21,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/28 of 4 March 1994,

Noting the report of the secretariat on a permanent forum (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1994/11) and the views expressed by Governments and indigenous organizations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1994/11/Add.1 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1994/CRP.3) and the notes of the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Ms. Erica-Irene Daes (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1994/13 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/30, annex 1),

Taking into account the comments and suggestions of participants at the twelfth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations,

1. Welcomes the request to the Commission on Human Rights by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/163 to give priority consideration to the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments and indigenous organizations to express their views concerning the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people and to report on the comments and suggestions received to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at its thirteenth session;

3. Recommends that any future permanent forum play an important role in operational coordination for development and that it enjoy observer status at all relevant Untied Nations bodies, including the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Sustainable Development;

4. Also recommends that the Centre for Human Rights organize a workshop on a possible permanent forum for indigenous people with the participation of representatives of Governments, indigenous organizations and independent experts.